Association in which, among other issues, it was also decided that the issue of setting up appropriate institutional arrangements in Ladakh, which would enable stepping up the pace of development and help to preserve the cultural heritage and meet the aspirations of the people of the Region, would also be considered. A series of official level meetings were held in this regard with representatives of the Region and officials of the State Government. A consensus was reached in the last meeting, held on 8-9 October, 1993 in the presence of the Union Home Minister, to set up an Autonomous Hill Council for Leh. Pursuant upon this, the State Government will take further steps to draw up a legislation for the purpose which would also have provision to enable similar arrangement for the Kargil district.

Setting up of joint Indo-Bangladesh Consultative Machinery

2819. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have mooted the proposal for setting up of a Joint Indo-Bangladesh consultative machinery to constantly monitor and exchange details on insurgency, infiltration, smuggling and transborder crimes; and

(b) if so, whether Bangladesh has accepted the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) During the visit of Home Secretary to Bangladesh in October, 1993, both sides inter-alia, agreed that: (i) the Home Secretaries would meet once a year; (ii) a Joint Working Group (JWG) would be set up to meet twice a year to examine, in depth, all outstanding issues and recommend practical measures for resolving them; and (iii) Director General level meetings between Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Force may be held twice a year.

Robbery Cases in North Eastern Frontier and North Eastern Railways

2820. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of robbery cases have been taken place in the North eastern Frontier Railways and North Eastern Railways during the last two years;

(b) if so, what steps are proposes to be taken to check such robbery cases;

(c) whether the Railway Protection Forces are insufficient to protect the travelling passengers from such anti-social activities; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) train-wise/ Zone-wise information on robberies is not compiled by the Central Government.

(b) to (d) Registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes on the railways is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police which functions under the control of the respective State Governments. It is also their duty to take effective steps to protect the travelling passengers from such anti-social activities.

Indian Citizenship to Chakma Refugees

2821. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are intending to grant Indian citizenship to Chakma refugees who are settled in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?